

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Robert Nelson (Nillson)¹ W26571

Mary f64NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

rev'd 12/16/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

[p 3]

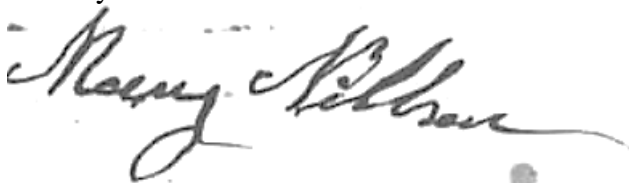
[State of Illinois, White County]

On this 1st day of June 1840 personally appeared before the County Commissioners Court of White County being by law a court of Record Mary Nelson age Seventy-nine years who being first duly sworn according to law on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the act of Congress passed July 7, 1838 entitled an act granting half pay and pensions to certain Widows – that she is the Widow of Robert Nelson who was a quarter master Sergeant in the 6th Regiment commanded by Colonel Lytle [Archibald Lytle] in the Revolutionary War, that he entered the service on the first day of January 1777 and served two years and six months – She further declares that she was married to the said Robert Nelson on the 12th day of June 1781 by Nathaniel Rochester Esq. in Hillsboro North Carolina, that she has no record testimony by which to prove her marriage nor any living witness – that she had a family record which showed the date of her marriage and the births of her children which was destroyed when crossing the Little Wabash River moving to this County – the water being so deep as to wet nearly everything in the wagon, in the year 1822 her first child whose name is Jane now Jane Roberts was born on the 7 day of November 1783.

She further declares that her said husband died on the 17 day of April 1793 – perhaps one year sooner or later not quite certain which --that she was not married to him previous to his leaving the service aforesaid but the marriage took place previous to the first of January 1794 (to wit) at the time above stated – that after their marriage he was called out to rendezvous at Hillsboro by order of the commanding General of the Militia and was taken prisoner by the British on the 4th of September 1781 and remained a prisoner until August following.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year above written in open Court before me
S/ Jas Ratcliff, Clk

S/ Mary Nillson



Jane Roberts, a Respectable persons and credible witness being duly sworn in open court doth on her oath declare to the best of her knowledge, she is the eldest daughter of her Parents Robert & Mary Nelson – that she has always understood that she was born on the 7 day of November 1783

¹ Index in the pension files under “Nillson, Robert”

– that she Recollects to see her father who died when she was about 10 years old she knows that him & her Mother lived together harmoniously as husband and wife – that she has reason to believe, and does verily believe that they were lawfully married – She also knows of the destruction of their books and records in 1822 when crossing the little Wabash River – that there was a family record which was lost.

Sworn & subscribed this first day of June 1840.

S/ Jane Roberts



S/ Jas Ratcliff, Clk

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State of North Carolina, Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify, that it appears from the musterrolls of the Continental line of this State in the revolutionary war, that Robert Nelson Quarter Master Sergeant of the 6th Regiment enlisted on the first of January 1777, and was 'omitted in January 1778,' That a Warrant for bounty land was issued to him on the 27th of October 1783 for 357 acres, a quantity of land given by law to a Sergeant for 2 ½ years service, which Warrant was issued on the Certificate of a Field Officer and delivered to said Robert Nelson.

Given under my hand this 3rd day of January 1840

S Wm Hill

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State of Illinois White County SS

Be it known that before me Solomon Vories a Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid personally appeared William Allen aged eighty years (nearly) a Respectable person and credible witness and made oath in due form of law as follows (to wit) that on the 4th day of September 1781² – in the service of the United States at Hillsborough in North Carolina – he was taken prisoner by the British & Tories – that a Mr. Robert Nelson also in the service of the United States was taken prisoner with him – that they were together as prisoners until 26 August following – that he often heard him speak of his wife Molly that after their liberation – he was at said Nelson's house and saw them living together as husband & wife – that he has frequently seen Mrs. Nelson in this County (White) and has no doubt of her being the same Woman – and that said Robert Nelson was a Gentleman of 1st rank character.

Sworn and subscribed this for March 1840 before me

S/ Solomon Vories, J. P.

S/ William Allen,³ X his mark

[p 60: On September 12, 1842 in White County Illinois, the widow gave testimony amending her declaration in which she states she married Archibald Sloan in June 1794, who separated from her in less than 3 weeks and that Sloan died in 1806 in Orange County, NC.]

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² I think it more likely that Allen and Nelson were taken prisoner on September 12, 1781 when loyalist/tory forces under David Fanning attacked Hillsboro NC and took NC Governor Thomas Burke and many soldiers prisoner.

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hillsborough.html

³ [William Allen S30822](#)

No	Soldier's Name	No. Acres	Time	date of Warnt	to whom issued
262	Robert Nelson Serjt.	357	30	27 th Oct. 1783	self

State of North Carolina, Secretary's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify that the above is a true abstract from a Book in this Office, in which a statement is made of all the Warrants issued to the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line of this State, for the land allowed them for their military Services performed in said revolutionary War.

Given under my hand this 28th of October 1842.

S/ Wm Hill

The figure "30" means 30 months service.

S/ Wm Hill

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No. 262

State of North Carolina The Honorable James Glasgow Esquire Secretary of State

To Colonel Martin Armstrong Greeting

You are hereby required to lay off & Survey for Robert Nelson formerly a Sergeant in the line of this State three hundred fifty-seven Acres of land within the limits of the lands reserved by law for the Officers & Soldiers of the Continental line in this State. Observing the directions of the Act of assembly in such case made and provided for runing [?] out Lands. Two just and fair plans thereof with a Certificate to each annexed you are to transmit to my Office within the time limited by Law.

Given under my hand at Hillsboro this 27th day of October A.D. 1783

S/ J. Glasgow

State of North Carolina Secretary of State's Office

I William Hill Secretary of State in and for the State of North Carolina do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a Warrant taken from the original which is on file in this Office.

Given under my hand this 5th day of November 1842

S/ Wm Hill

[p 6: On November 10, 1842 in St. Louis County Missouri, Mrs. Alsey Brown gave testimony that she is about 85 years old; in her youth she resided in the neighborhood of Hillsboro North Carolina; that her sister Mary who was 4 years younger than herself was married in 1781 to Robert Nelson and she knows that Nelson served in the revolutionary war. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

[p 18: In a letter dated March 21, 1843 from the widow to the Commissioner of pensions, James L Edwards, the widow states among other things that her husband, in addition to having served in the Continental line for 2 ½ years, "...served a tour as a substitute for a Doctor Hart and he was taken prisoner after our marriage and kept a prisoner more than 11 months."]

[Veteran's widow was pensioned initially at the rate of \$60 per annum increased to \$120 per annum based on her husband's service as a Sergeant in the North Carolina Continental line for 2 years.]